

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 22, 2001

LB 852

to maintain the integrity of our process. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Erdman, there are no further lights. You're recognized to close on your AM2095 to LB 852.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. Once again, let me thank you for patience, your indulgence. I know this is getting late in the session, but I also know that this is why they pay us the big bucks is to make these difficult decisions. But really once again, don't put the face to a district. Look at it from a map standpoint. If you look at proposal C and if you're going to use the argument of clear and defined areas, drawing Scotts Bluff County as it is is less defined on the east than my proposal. My proposal takes them all the way to the county line. Everyone east of Minatare is now in Senator Smith's district so you can make any argument you want to, but let's make the argument on a whole. The argument on a whole is this: We have followed county lines and precinct lines where practical. Districts are compact and contiguous. Districts are easily identifiable to the voters. Now highways, yes, that's fine. Rivers, that's great, too. But given the opportunity, our preference should be to the voters. So given the opportunity to look at a couple of maps here, one, we're already abiding by precincts. People who are going to vote know which precinct there is. If they read in the paper that redistricting happened and their precinct is now in whatever district, they're going to know, hey, I vote at the same place; but this is now my senator. That's not hard to understand. Preserve the core of existing districts, obviously did that. And also we have done that even better by adopting Perkins County back into 44. We're attempting to restore community of interest with Gosper back into 38; with Arthur and Banner County in 47. And finally, the key issue is substantially equal in population. I mean let's look at the examples. District 36, not affected, 3 percent; District 38, negative 5; my proposal, 1 percent; District 42, obviously, Lincoln County is its own district, 1 percent; District 43, we're going to go a little bit higher there; District 44, we're getting better, 1 percent, two to one; District 47, same;